

Cressage, Harley & Sheinton Parish Council

Minutes of a Parish Council meeting held at Cressage Village Hall on Tuesday 10th October 2023 at 7.00 pm

Present: Cllrs Laura Christmas, Robert Davies, John Esp, Matthew Murray, Kal Parkash, Victoria Todd (Chairman), Shropshire Councillor Claire Wild, 6 members of the public, and the Parish Clerk (Vanessa Voysey)

23.60 Chairman's welcome

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting

23.61 To note Apologies

An apology was received and accepted from Cllr Colin Campbell (unwell)

23.62 To note Declarations of Pecuniary Interest or consider dispensation requests.

There were none at this time

23.63 Public session.

Confidentiality and Transparency: a member of the public read an extract from the Transparency Code regarding contractual matters was read out, and questioned if it was necessary to go into confidential session. The Chairman said that she hoped it would be the last time that this procedure would have to be used as it was expected that the issue under discussion would be resolved. The Parish Clerk said that she had recommended a private session for the item on contractual matters as it encompassed staffing and legal matters as well as procurement.

Buses: several members of the public raised concerns about the Bridgnorth to Shrewsbury bus service. A resident reported that he had seen people standing in the stairwell of a bus, he said that he considered this to be a health and safety concern. A resident said that the morning service seemed to be settling down, but that he had concerns that some students were getting on the 7am bus, and that this included students with SENs (Special Educational Needs). There was agreement on this point from another resident, who noted the opening times of the Shrewsbury Colleges meant that students are unable to access college buildings, this could be a safety issue. It was questioned if drivers were cramming students onto buses to justify not sending a second shadow bus. The reliability of the second shadow bus was called into question, with residents pointing out that students could be waiting for a bus that might not arrive and that they would then be late for college. It was reported that there had been difficulties in getting Select Travel to respond to email and telephone enquiries.

Shropshire Cllr Claire Wild suggested that members of the public unhappy at not getting a response from Select Travel email her and she will follow it up. She said that the capacity of the bus is 97 including 31 standing under the terms of its license. A double-decker was being considered, she noted that the shadow bus would come on Fridays as data has shown that there was more use on that day.

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Cllr Rob Davies said that there will still issues and that at least 40 families were affected by it. Cllr Victoria Todd (Chairman) requested that members of the public attended the November Parish Council meeting to give an update as this would help to assess if problems had been resolved or not.

23.64 Council to consider and agree the Minutes from the Parish Council Meeting held on 12th September 2023

It was proposed, seconded, and resolved, to accept the minutes from the Parish Council Meeting of 12th September 2023 as a true record.

23.65 Shropshire Councillor's Report

Cllr Claire Wild said that regrettably the scheduled repair of Cressage Bridge in November had been pushed back due to more urgent bridge repair work being required at Cleobury Mortimer and Dorrington. The Parliamentary Boundary review has been completed; Severn Valley will be in a South Shropshire Constituency. The regional boundary review will bring some changes to Severn Valley; Harley will be moved into Much Wenlock division, and Kenley and Hughley into Burnell.

23.66 Planning matters:

i. Decisions to note:

The following planning decision received after the publication of the agenda was noted:

Refused: 23/00525/OUT. Outline application for 4 self-build houses on vacant land adjacent to the former Eagles Inn (all matters reserved). Resubmission of 22/00283/OUT. | The Eagles Inn, 1 Harley Road, Cressage, Shropshire SY5 6DF
This was refused on grounds of access, disability, and heritage impact

ii. Determine response to any new Planning Applications

The following planning notification was noted:

Withdrawn: 23/04207/TCA. Barn Yonder, Harley, Shropshire, SY5 6LX
Proposal: Reduce canopy / crown of three silver birch trees by approx 5-10 metres. Not protected by TPO Reduce height of Leylandii hedge to 3 metres from 4.5 metres

Cllr Victoria Todd noted that Raby Estates' Surveyor had contacted her regarding speculation on 'Message from Cressage' (Facebook) about planning submissions to advise that no plans have been submitted at this time, and that any plans put forwards will be robust and thought out.

23.67 Highways matters

- i. Highway issues for action: the 30mph sign coming into Cressage village from the Much Wenlock direction still has not been repaired, it is leaning towards the ground.

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There is no grit bin on Sheinton Bank.

The Parish Clerk said that she would report both matters via Fix My Street.

- ii. The following was noted: temporary road closure on the A458 Harley to Much Wenlock, 7th to 8th November 2023, Monday to Friday 20:00 – 6:00. A458 RNI Multevo Works. Works Promoter: Shropshire Council

23.68 Financial matters:

- i. It was proposed, seconded, and resolved to agree payment of invoices and charges

Payee	Item	Amount	Date of Invoice
Clerk	Salary month 7	£501.87	31/09/2023
HMRC	Tax month 7	£125.60	31/09/2023
Amazon/Clerk	Dog waste bags	£21.99	21/9/2023
Water Plus (direct debit)	Pavilion Water	£41.73	8/9/2023
Ecotricity (direct debit)	Pavilion heat/light	£23.44	30/09/2023
SLB Maintenance	September	£696.24	1/9/2023
ICO Fee (direct debit)	2023-2024	£30	30/9/2023
SALC – to note	Affiliation fees 2023-2034	£490.80	

Received after the publication of the agenda:
SLB Maintenance - £75 for hedgecutting at The Eagles

- ii. It was agreed to note: receipts and expenditure to end September
- iii. It was agreed to note: Bank Reconciliation to end September
- iv. It was agreed to note: Spend Against Budget to end September

23.69 Other Parish Matters – to include report back from meetings/training courses attended

- i. West Mercia Police Safer Roads funding: the Chairman had discussed the application form with a highways expert who had advised that ‘Community Concern’ could be a key area for any application. This would focus on traffic speeding through the village of Cressage. He was concerned at the tight application times and that any application would need advice and input from Shropshire Council. In the first instance, foliage needs cutting back, after this looking at signage and road markings on entering Cressage would be beneficial.
- ii. Under 11s play area: a grant application for National Lottery Funding has been drafted and is ready for submission.
- iii. Bins for dog waste: a bin has not yet been put in place. It was requested that the Parish Clerk follows up this issue with Street Scene at Shropshire Council.

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- iv. Footpaths: Cllr Rob Davies had received a response from Shropshire Council regarding footpaths to say it was being progressed, but there had been no other outcomes as yet.
- v. Streetlights: Cllr Matt Murray had spoken with a Prysmian technician about streetlighting. An initial estimate was that it would cost £25 to fit a timer in each light. It was agreed that the Parish Clerk would forward Cllr Murray a copy of the streetlighting schedule, and that further information would be sought on costs. Cllr Rob Davies expressed caution as not all residents were in favour of the initiative.
- vi. Parking on Sheinton Road: Cllr Rob Davies reported that he had received numerous comments about parking on the pavement impeding access, particularly for pushchairs. It was noted that Shropshire Council is going to do a review of zig-zag lines outside schools. It was suggested that the local school could be requested to speak to parents about parking around the corner in order to ease this situation, also potentially, PCSO support may help. Cllr Victoria Todd said that she would speak to the Doctor's Surgery about the 3pm clinics.
- vii. Remembrance Day: there was discussion about the arrangements for Remembrance Sunday. Marshalls will be required.

It was agreed that the Parish Council will make a donation to the Royal British Legion for providing a wreath for Remembrance Day. The normal donation is £50.

It was agreed that the Parish Council will hire Cressage Village Hall for one hour in order to prepare teas and coffees.

- viii. Church Commissioners' report: the Church of England Church Commissioners have produced a draft proposal for the future of Church of Christ Church, Cressage and have requested that any representations to it are to be made before Monday 27th November 2023.

23.70 Items for consideration at next Council meeting, not for debate or decision

None at this time

23.71 Date & time of next Council meeting 14th November 2023 at Cressage Village Hall, 7.00pm

23.72 Confidential Session: Exclusion of public and press: it was resolved that in accordance with Schedule 12a, Local Government Act 1972, the following items will be likely to disclose exempt information relating to establishment and contractual matters. It was therefore requested that pursuant to the provisions of the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960, that the public and press be excluded

23.73 Contractual Matters

The environmental maintenance contract for 2022-2025 was never signed and the contractor has given 3 months' notice in writing. Members agreed to reword and redraft the contract amending errors, and to re-tender it.